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Discovery forges partnership with Montgomery College *by kristi tousignant*
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Students at Montgomery College now have a direct line to internships and lectures with professionals at Discovery Communications.

Discovery announced a public-private partnership with Montgomery College on Tuesday at an event with Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) and other officials at the community college's Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus.



As part of the partnership, Discovery will offer internships to Montgomery College students, host lectures and help students develop their resumes and interview skills.

"We want students to leave schools with skills to en

ter the work force," said David Zaslav, president and CEO of Discovery, which is based in Silver Spring. The partnership with Montgomery College is part of Discovery's "Discover Your Skills" campaign, which provides unemployed people with resources for obtaining job skills. As part of the program, Discovery also is partnering with Skills for America's Future, a partnership of businesses and community colleges announced by President Barack Obama with a mission to address the dual problems of unemployment and the difficulty employers' face in finding skilled workers.

Discovery launched a website Tuesday, www.discoveryourskills.com, which links to sites that help people find community colleges, apprenticeships and job search resources.

The partnership with Montgomery College is just the first step, Zaslav said. Discovery plans to roll out similar programs with community colleges around the country in the future.

Zaslav said the college and Discovery have not yet determined how many students will receive internships through the program. The internships will be at positions in the company including communications, business, multimedia, technical support, sales and finance.

Representatives from the company's human resources department will spend time on campus to offer students help in building their resumes and training for job interviews.

Along with O'Malley and Zaslav, Montgomery College President DeRionne P. Pollard, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) and others attended Tuesday's event.

The officials toured the college's Health Sciences Center before presenting the initiative.

The partnership between the nonfiction media company and the community college matches up with O'Malley's goal to increase critical job skills in the state by 20 percent by 2012.

"One of the best ways to achieve a better future for the country is every individual needs to figure out that little extra they can bring to this market," O'Malley said at the event.

Duncan, who also spoke at the event, said individuals obtaining quality job skills would be the key to an economic recovery.

"As individuals get back on their feet, the economy gets back on its feet," Duncan said.

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